Date: May 9, 2003

Contact: Mary Apple, 406-896-5258

BLM Fire Plan Available for Review

The Bureau of Land Management is asking the public to review and comment on a preliminary version of the agency's statewide Fire and Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA)/Plan Amendment. The EA applies to BLM-administered lands in Montana and North and South Dakota.

The EA analyzes the impacts of amending the agency's resource management plans (RMPs) to update its fire and fuels management practices and improve implementation of the National Fire Plan and the Federal Fire Management Policy.

The EA was initiated because national fire and fuels management policies have evolved in recent years and BLM planning documents need to be updated to reflect the current condition of BLM-administered lands in the three states.

Comments on the proposed plan and EA will be accepted until June 9, 2003, and should be sent to: BLM Montana State Office, Attn: John Thompson, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT, 59101. Copies of the document are available from the BLM or on the internet at www.mt.blm.gov. For more information, contact John Thompson at 406/896-5030.